

in 1976, one closed and another opened in the first part of the year but was forced to close later because of financial problems.

Lode gold mines accounted for 71.8% of the total gold produced in Canada in 1976 compared with 73.0% in 1975. Gold recovered as a byproduct from base-metal mining accounted for 27.4% and placer mining 0.8%. Ontario continued to be the leading gold-producing province, accounting for 43.5% of the total, followed by Quebec with 28.1%, Northwest Territories with 11.2% and British Columbia with 10.5%. Canada ranked third in world gold production, well behind South Africa and the Soviet Union.

All gold produced in the Atlantic provinces in 1976 was recovered as a byproduct of base-metal mining. Gold production totalled 230 000 grams compared with 509 661 grams in 1975.

Gold production in Quebec in 1976 amounted to 14.7 million grams compared with 14.2 million grams in 1975. Ore reserves at the Horne mine of Noranda Mines Ltd. were exhausted and the mine closed in July 1976. The Horne mine came into production in 1927 and had been a major producer of byproduct gold. Lower byproduct production from this mine was offset by increased gold production from most other base-metal mines. All lode gold mines recorded increased output.

Gold production in Ontario in 1976 was 22.8 million grams compared with 23.5 million grams in 1975. Gold produced from lode gold mines accounted for 91.9% of the provincial total. In December 1975, Rengold Mines Ltd. began operations at its leased property near Missanabie, the former Renabie mine, but was forced to close in June 1976 because of financial difficulties. Bulora Corp. Ltd. exhausted its ore reserves at its Red Lake district gold mine, the former Madsen Red Lake Mine, and closed in 1976. The Ross mine of Hollinger Mines Ltd. at Holtvre and Hollingers main mine in Timmins were sold to Pamour Porcupine Mines Ltd.

Virtually all gold produced in the Prairie provinces was recovered as a byproduct from base-metal ores. Production in 1976 was 2.0 million grams, a slight increase.

The major portion of gold produced in British Columbia in 1976 was recovered as a byproduct of base-metal mines, mainly from treatment of copper ores. Northair Mines began production in May 1976 at its gold-silver-lead-zinc mine about 113 kilometres north of Vancouver. Concentrator capacity is 278 tonnes a day. This is the first new metal mine to come into production in British Columbia since 1972. Some placer gold was recovered from the Cariboo and Atlin districts. Total gold production in 1976 was 5.5 million grams compared with 4.9 million grams in 1975.

Gold production in the Yukon Territory in 1976 was 965 000 grams compared with 997 986 grams in 1975. Gold was recovered from placer mines and base-metal operations.

Gold produced in the Northwest Territories was recovered from lode gold mines near Yellowknife. Production in 1976 was 5.8 million grams compared with 5.5 million grams in 1975. Cominco completed sinking of a new shaft to a depth of 1 768 metres and was installing shaft facilities. Mill capacity increased from 410 to 590 tonnes a day.

12.3.6 Silver

Canada's mine production of silver in 1976, 1.3 million kilograms, was 37 090 kilograms more than 1975. Canada in 1976 was the world's third largest mine producer of silver, surpassed by the USSR and Mexico. Other major producers were Peru and the US.

Mine production of silver from base-metal ores in New Brunswick, Ontario, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories accounted for most of the increase. Silver output in Quebec, recovered mainly from base-metal ores, increased 8.5% in 1976 from 1975.

Ontario was the leading silver-producing province with output in 1976 accounting for almost 40% of Canadian mine production. The largest producer in Canada was Texasgulf Canada Ltd., which recovered over 323 943 kilograms of silver in copper, lead and zinc concentrates at its Kidd Creek mine near Timmins, Ont.

In the Prairie region much of the silver came from eight base-metal mines operated by Hudson Bay Mining near Flin Flon and Snow Lake, Man. Most of the remainder was derived from the Fox and Ruttan copper-zinc mines operated by Sherritt Gordon Mines Ltd. at Lynn Lake and Ruttan, Man.